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02/19/2014 Minutes

Minutes for the ABAC meeting of February 19, 2014
Approved March 19, 2014

Board members attending were Ron Sender, Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Doug Greenfield, Christopher Tonkin, Scott Smith and Phil Goff. Joey Glushko, Stephen Quinn, Adam Kurowski, Hector Carmona and Vince Stanton were also present.

*Approval of the minutes of the January meeting. The minutes of the January meeting were approved, by unanimous vote, as amended.

Vince Stanton, Minuteman Bikeway Graduate Student Project. Vince Stanton introduced himself and explained that he is on the Bikeway Advisory Committee (BAC) and Belmont Citizens Forum in Belmont. The BAC was appointed to devise a compromise position with dissenting abutters so that the construction of the bikeway in Belmont can proceed. He is proposing a study of the Minuteman Bikeway to determine the effects that the path has had on abutters. He presented us with a proposal for the study of the path, to be done by graduate students at the Kennedy School of Government. At this point, he has done a preliminary survey mapping of the abutting properties and the existing barriers between the Bikeway and the abutting properties. He would like to extend this data by determining how the abutters deal with the path and how property values have changed since its construction.

Vince has already made a proposal to a professor at the Kennedy School to have the survey done as a graduate student project. He would like the project to run from mid- March through mid -May. He will soon know whether the School will be able to do the project this spring. Phil asked if the new bikeway could be built with a barrier wall to lessen the impact on the objecting abutters. Scott volunteered to help with the project and suggested that a look at the new Alewife Greenway might provide some useful background.

Hector Carmona, Brightview Duathlon. Hector, who works for the new Brightview Assisted Living Facility in Arlington, told us that he would like to sponsor a duathlon for the benefit of Alzheimer's research. Jack told him that there are already a number of events in the area, mostly triathlons, that benefit many causes including Alzheimer's. Hector also told us that they would like to use the Bikeway for the race. We pointed out that the Bikeway can't be closed off so might be incompatible with such an event. Joey will send Hector a copy of the Bikeway Event Guidelines to discuss with his colleagues at Brightview. He will keep in touch with ABAC to inform us about the planning for the event.

Report on TAC activities. Scott told us that the red lights on the beacon at the Mill St./Bikeway intersection are covered for the moment because they draw too much power. Christopher and Stephan attended a meeting of the Arlington Redevelopment Board to discuss this intersection and reported that the ARB would like to see a chicane installed on the Bikeway to retard the speed of bicyclists approaching the intersection. The joint TAC/ABAC working group dealing with this problem will be meeting again on February 27 to discuss whether the installation of a chicane is possible and desirable.

Report on the Friends of the Bikeway. Stephan reported that he and Christopher met with Charlie McCabe to initiate planning for the new organization. The activity at the meeting consisted primarily discussing what financial and legal structures must be put in place. Stephan and Christopher suggested a number of organizations that might be willing to host the new group initially. Joey suggested that possibly the Parks and Recreation Department, which has a Friends of Parks umbrella group, could function as such a host.

Planning for the ABAC Winter Social. Stephen told us that he has spoken with the speaker, George Reynolds, and has made arrangements for all the support that will be necessary for the talk. Stephan and Christopher will provide refreshments. Joey added that Nina Fischer will give a brief introduction to the "I Can Shine Bicycle Camp" for disabled children that she runs during the spring break. Lastly, we briefly discussed the information that should be included in Christopher's introduction to the program.

BIKE-Arlington Tour. We discussed possible routes for the tour this spring. Scott suggested that we do a tour in the eastern part of town to show the connection to the new Belmont Bikeway at Alewife. We realized that our problem is including all the parts of town that we want to see in the route. We will take up this topic when we can comfortably get on the road to check out the possibilities.

2014 EcoFest. The theme this year for the EcoFest is Rethink Recycling: REDUCE, REUSE, REPURPOSE. Joey suggested that we participate by inviting Bikes not Bombs since they recycle bicycles. Jack thought that they could park their truck in the parking lot and accept

unwanted bicycles for recycling.

Other topics. Joey told us that she has spoken with Wayne Chouinard, the Town Engineer, about contacting the DPWs of the other Bikeway towns for the purpose of coordinating pan-bikeway projects. She also suggested that we schedule an annual tri-community meeting ASAP. Ron thought that it would be more efficient for the tri-community meeting to be separate from our regular ABAC meetings because there is very little overlap in subject matter.

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

*indicates that a vote of the ABAC Board was taken.
Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller.